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**Third International Conference on Financing for Development**
Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015

Item 10
**Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference**

## Letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

On behalf of my Government, I have the honour to request that the attached statement for the record by the United States of America be included in its entirety in the report of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

## United States of America explanation of position, Third International Conference on Financing for Development

**As prepared for delivery by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury Alexia Latortue**

[16 July 2015, Addis Ababa]

I want to start by thanking the Ethiopian Government, especially Prime Minister Hailemariam and Foreign Minister Tedros, for hosting such a successful conference and for helping shepherd us to a final agreement on this important text. I want to thank the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Financing for Development Secretariat for their support of this conference. I especially want to thank the co-facilitators, Ambassador Pedersen and Ambassador Talbot, for their strong leadership throughout this process. They ably guided this negotiation over the last eight months, helping to build consensus on an ambitious framework that will help us towards our goal of eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development. We would also like to thank all of our colleagues, who put in countless hours and sleepless nights, for their efforts to bring us to where we are today. Our thanks also to other Member States for the depth, substance and soundness of our discussion throughout the negotiating process, side events and initiatives showcased during this conference.

Today is an important milestone for guiding development efforts for the years ahead and towards our key objective of ending extreme poverty and helping those countries most in need. This was a good-faith effort by all. Together, we kept our eyes on our common goal and worked hard to forge a new global partnership in promoting sustainable development. We have come together to deepen our collective commitment to end extreme poverty, promote inclusive growth and provide the means to implement our ambitious post-2015 development agenda. We would like to underscore the importance the United States attaches to the financing for development process and how inspired we are by the fact that all of us were able to work together to build a shared vision across nations about how to effectively invest in sustainable development. Now comes the hard work of implementing the framework we have agreed to in order to deliver on the ambitious goals before us. Addis is a celebration of our collective success on behalf of citizens around the world, and Ethiopia has been a wonderful host for this celebration.

We take this opportunity to make important points of clarification on the outcome document for the Addis Ababa financing for development conference, with the understanding that this non-binding document does not create rights or obligations under international law. First, the United States has long-standing concerns regarding the topic of the right to development. The right to development continues to lack any kind of an agreed international understanding. As we have repeatedly stated, any related discussion needs to focus on aspects of development that relate to human rights — universal rights that are held and enjoyed by

individuals, and which every individual may demand from his or her own Government.

Second, the United States has long promoted consensual, orderly sovereign debt restructuring efforts within a framework of contractual certainty. In this regard, the United States supports the recent work of the International Capital Market Association, endorsed by the International Monetary Fund, to enhance contractual certainty in the context of restructuring efforts. As we have previously stated, if renegotiation of contractual terms become necessary, the United States expects that both sides — creditors and sovereign debtors alike — should work in a cooperative manner to negotiate a voluntary, consensual resolution, but that restructuring negotiations must take place within a framework where creditors and debtors can seek recourse to the courts to enforce contractual terms.

Third, the United States firmly considers that strong protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights provide critical incentives needed to drive the innovation that will address the health, environmental and development challenges of today and tomorrow. Such protection is also an essential component of any international technology cooperation effort aimed at addressing those challenges through the facilitation of access to, and dissemination of, such technologies. The United States understands, with respect to the outcome document, that references to transfer of, or access to, technology are to voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and that all references to access to information and/or knowledge are to information or knowledge that is made available with the authorization of the legitimate holder. The United States notes that work is being done in other international forums to address issues pertaining to traditional knowledge, and underscores the importance of regulatory and legal environments that do not negatively affect innovation and development. The language in the document on technology transfer and on traditional knowledge does not, from the United States perspective, serve as a precedent for future negotiated documents, including any documents relating to the sustainable development goals or the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or any other negotiation in or outside of the United Nations system, including bilateral and multilateral agreements.

With these clarifications, we are pleased to join consensus on the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.